

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The applicant acknowledges, with thanks, receipt of the 04/04/2007 office action. By this amendment, the specification has been amended to correct typographical errors and to describe Figs. 3-6 which were included in the originally filed application. No new matter has been added. Independent claims 1 and 11 were amended. Claim 20 was canceled. Claim 21 is new. The subject matter of the memory mapped interface recited in claims 1 and 11 is not new matter as it is described in the paragraph beginning on page 7 at line 16 of the original specification. The subject matter of new claim 21 is not new matter as it is disclosed in the last sentence of the paragraph bridging pages 6-7 (page 7, lines 11-15).

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 5-6, 9-11, 15-16 and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gillies et al. (US Patent Publication 2003/0212821; *hereinafter* Gillies). Claims 2 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Gillies and Sinivaara et al. (US Patent #7,020,439; *hereinafter* Sinivaara). Claims 3-4, 7-10, 13-14 and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of Gillies and Rosner et al. (US Patent 7,149,213; *hereinafter* Rosner).

Independent claims 1 and 11, as currently amended, now recite a memory mapped interface accessible to a plurality of wireless access points in data communication with the application specific integrated circuit (ASIC). The memory mapped interface stores packets for the plurality of wireless access points and provides MAC layer processors associated with the plurality of access points access to the packets. A packet is stored in a memory area corresponding to a wireless access point for transmitting the packet. The packet remains stored in the memory area until after the packet is transmitted by the wireless access point and an acknowledgement for the packet is received by the MAC associated with the wireless access point. In other words, the packet is stored at the switch (ASIC) and not at the access point. An aspect of claims 1 and 11 is that the functionality of a central switch is combined with access point functions, which are combined together in an ASIC. The merged wireless functions and wired switch functions are controlled by the same ASIC. The removal of functionality from the access point enables the use of ‘light’ access points, for example as illustrated in Fig. 4.

By contrast, Giles is directed to a system and method for routing packets over wireless and wired networks. The system employs an attribute routing scheme that routes communication packets that include objects containing network optimization parameters used to control the physical links in the network. Giles does not have a memory mapped interface that stores packets for wireless access points until after the packets are transmitted and an acknowledgement is received for them.

The aforementioned deficiency in Gilles is not remedied by any teaching of Sinavaara. Sinavaara is directed to a method for selecting an access point. A mobile unit sends sets of attributes, containing at least one attribute indicating the quality of a wireless link between access points and the mobile unit. Based on the sets, a service report describing current service conditions in the coverage area of the access points is formed and sent to the mobile terminal. The terminal examines the service report and based on the examination selects an access point.

The aforementioned deficiency in Gilles and Sinavaara is not remedied by any teaching of Rosner. Rosner is directed to a wireless computer system with a queue and scheduler. Rosner is used by the examiner to disclose an integrated circuit comprising a queue for prioritizing data frames to provide quality of service.

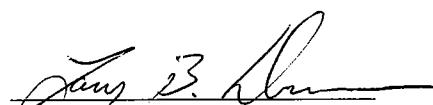
In addition to the reasons set forth above, new claim 21 recites that the ASIC further comprises one of a group consisting of a core for 802.11 to 802.3 header stripping, a core for 802.11 to 802.3 encapsulation, a core for providing Message Integrity Check (MIC) hardware assistance, and radio client association tables. Nothing in the cited prior art would teach or suggest employing these cores with an ASIC at a centralized switch that is coupled to a plurality of access points.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons just set forth, the claims as now amended are neither anticipated nor obvious in view of the cited prior art. If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 72255/26765.

Respectfully submitted,

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